

ORGANISATIONAL BASISA). Statement of Organisation of the Direct Action Movement
(passed at conference, Leeds, 30/6/79)1) Aims and Principles

- a) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- b) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- c) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- d) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over 'on behalf of' the workers.
- e) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and the community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
- f) We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
- g) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.

2) Membership

a) The membership fee is £1.50 per calendar month or minimum dues of 30p per month for non-wage earners.

b) Dues to be paid to a membership delegate for the current month in advance.

c) Arrears can be paid at any time up to 3 months late.

d) Dues can be paid up to 6 months in advance.

3) Membership Delegates

a) Membership delegates are to be elected where deemed necessary by members; and in the manner of the members choosing.

b) All membership delegates should be made known to the secretary.

c) The duty of the membership delegate is to collect dues from members and to record such on members cards and also to keep a record of such.

d) The record and dues collected should be forwarded to the secretary/treasurer as often as possible but at least every 3 months.

e) Dues can be paid direct to the S/T.

4) Groups

A D.A.M. group is constituted by 2 or more members who have sufficient communications to make collective decisions on a weekly basis.

5) Conferences

a) A general conference shall be held every 4 months to which any member may go and have equal voting rights.

b) Decisions should be by consensus where possible; a vote only taken when requested by more than one member.

c) Members not present at a conference may register their opinions or vote in 2 ways:

5) Cont'd

- i) A written statement to the S/T.
- ii) Through a mandated delegate or a free voting delegate.
- d) A chaipperson is to be elected. Duties to include:
 - i) Reading of the agenda and calling relevent member(s) to initiate discussion, only.
 - ii) To intervene in discussion when such becomes uncontrolled by normal social rules.
- e) Minutes secretery to be elected. Duties to include:
 - i) Taking full minutes.
 - ii) Transcribing the minutes and giving the S/T a copy as soon as possible which should appear in the next bulletin published.
- f) Where a vote is taken on the policy of the D.A.M. a two thirds majority is necessary but a consensus is preferable.

6) Secretary/Treasurer

- a) A seretary/treasurer shall be elected annually and serve not more than two years.
- b) The S/T shall have the following duties:
 - i) To act as treasurer of the D.A.M. and to keep a running account of monies paid into and of the bank account or petty cash. A record of such should be available to any member at two days notice.
 - ii) The accounts should be presented to every general conference.
 - iii) No monies are to be paid out except when authorised by a general conference decision, unless required for general expenses.
 - iv) To act as secretery to the organisation; to answer all enquiries and to provide communications between groups and individuals where these do not exist.

7) Emergency Provision

A full list of members is to be kept by a local group other than the S/T, for purposes in case the S/T does a bunk.

8) Commissions

In order to publicise the D.A.M.'s policies and beliefs, a commission of varying numbers of people shall be elected at a general conference to investigate any specific issue of relevance. A statement of the commission's should be presented to the next conference and to the S/T for distribution to members.

Changes to the statement are made at the conference and a vote taken, if necessary, for acceptance of the statement. A positive vote is an acceptance of the statement as the policy of the D.A.M.

9) Group Publications

a) At least 3 copies of any publication produced by a D.A.M. group under the title of the D.A.M. must be sent to the S/T by the group who have produced it.

b) The S/T will present two copies of the above to the next D.A.M. conference following his acquisition of it.

c) Any member can initiate a discussion about the publication for criticism. Any decision taken becomes policy and should be noted by the group in question and other members.

10) Wages

No member of the D.A.M. shall be paid any wages, of any nature, other than legitimate expenses, by the D.A.M.

(NB I have included in the above all amendments made since it was first agreed. S/T)

B) Membership (Leeds 30/6/79)

It was agreed that membership be on an individual rather than group basis.

C) Publications Committee (Manchester 29/9/79)

That a standing committee be established on an annual basis, subject to a 3 monthly review and recallable at any time, to prepare and publish for general distribution literature on behalf of DAM.

D) Local Leaflets (Manchester 29/9/79)

That all locally produced leaflets be sent to the secretary for printing in the internal bulletin. These leaflets, where suitable, to be considered for general publication and circulation. (see A8a above)

E) Public Documents (Manchester 29/9/79)

All public documents of the DAM be clearly identified as to their actual source of publication. That is they should bear the general, regional, local, or individuals identity and only that level of authorship which has actually produced this material.

F) Public Documents (Manchester 29/9/79)

That all DAM documents bear their source address (if possible) and that of the current secretary at the time of publication.

G) Postal Ballot (Manchester 29/9/79)

A postal ballot can be called for through the IB on any matter considered urgent enough to merit one.

H) Bans and Exclusions (Manchester 29/9/79)

In order to avoid people who represent what DAM is opposed to having influence on our organisation, the following categories of people are not eligible for membership (except under special circumstances to be determined at a general conference).

1) Police, prison warders, armed forces, security services and similar agents of the state.

2) Members of any political party or authoritarian political group.

3) Any person whose actions are deemed by conference to be contrary to the aims and principles of the DAM may be expelled by that conference.

I) Recall (Manchester 29/9/79)

All official post holders in the DAM shall be subject to recall at any conference of the DAM.

J) Interest Groups (Manchester 29/9/79)

That any special interest group e.g. women, within the DAM have the right to organise and hold meetings autonomously outside and within the conference programme. A report from any such meetings should be made to the general conference and also incorporated in the minutes of the general conference.

K) Minutes (London 26/1/80)

That at future conferences the minutes of the previous conference be circulated and taken as read and that amendments or matters arising be dealt with, the delegates indicating to the chair the item number or item and clause number they wish to comment on, and that matters arising be dealt with after acceptance of the minutes.

L) Publications (London 26/1/80)

That copies of all material published, in addition to leaflets etc. be forwarded to the S/T for inclusion in the IB or forwarding to the publications commission.

M) Speakers Fees (London 26/1/80)

That if members could get fees for ~~speaking~~ addressing other organisations, half the fee should be donated to their local branch and half to the DAM funds.

N) Interest Groups (Cardiff 26/7/80)

It was agreed that time should be put aside at conferences for workshops and special interest groups to meet.

O) Newspaper (London 25/10/80)

1) Editorial Collective

The Editorial Collective is to be elected for one year only, subject to a maximum of 2 consecutive years. The Editorial Collective will be subject to recall.

2) Complaints

It was agreed that the place for debate about content, complaints etc, was the IB. Arguments amongst ourselves in public should be avoided subject to the constraints of common sense. Any member aggrieved by the action of the Editorial Collective should raise it at a conference or in the IB.

P) Failsafe (London 25/10/80)

Any member or group unable to carry out a function delegated to it should contact the S/T so that alternative arrangements can be made.

SYNDICALISM DEFINED

One would have to be blind not to see what there is in common between anarchism and syndicalism. Both seek to root out capitalism and the wage system by means of the social revolution. Syndicalism exists as the proof of a reawakening of the working-class movement, and it revives in anarchism a consciousness of its origins among the workers; on the other hand, the anarchists have contributed not a little towards bringing the working-class movement into the revolutionary path and towards popularizing the idea of direct action. In such ways syndicalism and anarchism have influenced each other to their mutual benefit.

Syndicalism is a method of industrial organization which goes away from all the traditional conceptions of authority and government, of capitalism and the State. While communism, in abolishing individual capitalism, creates a worse monster in its place in the form of the economic state, syndicalism leaves all the patterns of administration which in the past have resulted only in the oppression and exploitation of man by man, and sets out to build an organizational form based on the natural needs of men rather than on the interests of the ruling classes, based not on the dictates of authority, but on the voluntary co-operation of free and equal individuals in satisfying the economic needs of the men who form society.

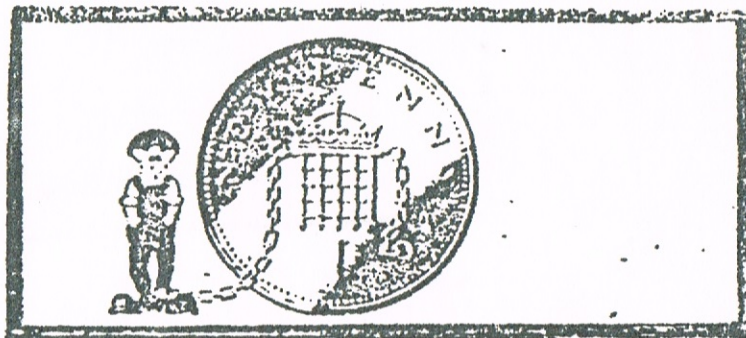
Syndicalism is the industrial manifestation of anarchism. . . . Anarchism advocates, instead of the governmental coercion of the individual, which exists in the most democratic society that still retains the State, a society based on the free co-operation of individual men and women for the fulfilment of their social and economic needs. Organization, on a voluntary basis, is necessary for the operation of the means of production and the desirable public services, but no kind of superior body of authority, with its parliaments, police, bureaucracies, codes of law, taxes, armies and secretive intrigues in internal and foreign politics, has any place or value in a society based on justice and reason. In anarchy, once he has fulfilled his contractual economic functions, an individual can live as he will, provided he does not interfere with the freedom of his fellows.

Anarchists believe that the means of production should be the property of society, held in common, and that only by such an arrangement will the restricting influence of private property be removed and the resources of nature and science be used to their full extent for the benefit of humanity. In order that there may be no possibility of such private interest arising, they advocate that, once the means of production have been taken out of the hands of their usurping controllers, they shall be run not by any authority or elite of leaders, but by the people who are themselves concerned in production, i.e. by the workers in each industry.

Syndicalism, as I have already said, is the method by which such control by the workers would be organized. It is, moreover, the method by which the workers under a property society would organize themselves for the attainment of the free classless society.

The syndicate is a form of union which differs from the ordinary trade union in that it aims, not only at the gaining of improvements in wages and conditions under the present system, but also at the overthrow of that system by a social revolution based on the economic direct action of the workers. This is not to say that it ignores the day-to-day struggle, but its members recognize that only by a complete destruction of the structure of property and authority can justice and security ever be attained by the workers.

The syndicate differs also from the ordinary trade union in its method of organization. The ordinary trade union follows the pattern of governmental society in that it has a centralized form, with authority at the centre and a permanent bureaucracy who, like any other bureaucracy, rapidly gain privilege and power and rise into a class with an economic position considerably higher than that of the workers who pay them and whom they are supposed to serve. The syndicate, on the other hand, is based on the organization of the workers by industry at the place of work. The workers of each factory or depot or farm are an autonomous unit, who govern their own affairs and who



make all the decisions as to the work they will do. These units are joined federally in a syndicate which serves to co-ordinate the actions of the workers in each industry. The federal organization has no authority over the workers in any branch, and cannot impose a veto on action like a trade union executive. It has no permanent bureaucracy, and the few voluntary officials are chosen on a short term basis, have no privileges which raise their standard of living above that of the workers, and wield no authority of any kind.

Being governed from below and untainted by the ideas or institutions of authority, the syndicate represents more truly than any other type of organization the will of the workers and the good of society. Its lack of centralization and bureaucracy, of any kind of privilege or vested interest in the present order of society, give it a flexibility of action and a real solidarity which make it the ideal instrument for canalizing and influencing in the right way the spontaneous revolutionary activity of the people.

In the social revolution the syndicates will play their part by organizing the economic direct action of the workers. On the railways, for example, they would lead the workers in the expropriation of lines, stations and rolling stock, and their use for the purposes of the revolutionary movement and not for those of the dispossessed masters.

After the revolution the syndicates will form the framework on which the first phase of the free society will be built. Anarchists do not make any plans for the free society in its maturity, as they believe in the open and continual growth of social institutions, and recognize that any hard-and-fast plan of development will create only a rigid and sterile society. Nevertheless, they recognize that after the old society has been abolished some kind of social structure should be built immediately to take over the means of production and change the economic basis of society from that of a class order to one more appropriate to a free world. This means of organization they find in the syndicate.

The organization of industry, transport and farming under the syndicates will follow the same lines as the organization of the workers in the days before the end of the property

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